

RESOLUTION 16-60

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF RESTRUCTURING THE GOVERNANCE OF THE METROPOLITAN COUNCIL

WHEREAS, regional planning and local government cooperation is vital to the continued success of the Minneapolis-St. Paul Metropolitan Area; and

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Council is, by statute, the regional planning agency for the Minneapolis-St. Paul Metropolitan Area, with broad authority, including the ability to levy taxes, charge fees and set regional policy; and

WHEREAS, cities and counties are the entities most directly affected by policies and financial decisions of the Metropolitan Council, making them the primary constituents of the Metropolitan Council; and

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Council's scope of authority and involvement in regional issues has expanded significantly over the years; and

WHEREAS, a governmental entity, particularly one with taxing authority, to be effective, must be credible, and responsive and accountable to those it represents; and

WHEREAS, the appointment of Metropolitan Council members resides solely with the Governor, effectively making the Governor the primary constituent of the Metropolitan Council; and

WHEREAS, many cities and counties believe that the Metropolitan Council lacks accountability and responsiveness to them as direct constituents; and

WHEREAS, many cities and counties believe that the authority to impose taxes and set regional policy should be the responsibility of local government elected officials; and

WHEREAS, reform is necessary to ensure that the Metropolitan Council is an effective, responsive, and accountable partner for regional development and progress.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Coon Rapids City Council agrees that the Metropolitan Council, due to its taxing and policy authority, should be accountable to a regional constituency of those impacted by its decisions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Coon Rapids City Council agrees the Metropolitan Council should not operate as a state agency answerable to only one person, the Governor, as it does in its current form; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Coon Rapids City Council supports reform of the Metropolitan Council that adheres to the following principles:

- I. A majority of the members of the Metropolitan Council shall be elected officials,

appointed from cities and counties within the region;

- II. Metropolitan cities shall directly control the appointment process for city representatives to the Metropolitan Council;
- III. Metropolitan counties shall directly appoint their own representatives to the Metropolitan Council;
- IV. The terms of office for any Metropolitan Council members appointed by the Governor shall be staggered and not coterminous with the Governor;
- V. Membership on the Metropolitan Council shall include representation from every metropolitan county government;
- VI. The Metropolitan Council shall represent the entire region, therefore voting shall be structured based on population and incorporate a system of checks and balances.

Adopted this 3rd day of May, 2016, by the Coon Rapids City Council.

Jerry Koch, Mayor

ATTEST:

Joan Lenzmeier, City Clerk